

WWF Slam pleases fans

The good, the bad and the ugly from last week's World Wrestling Federation Summer Slam pay-per-view show.



**GRUNT
AND
GRIN**

BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

The good: Two of the WWF's three championships changed hands, thus most viewers who spent \$24.95 to see the show probably felt satisfied that the show was special. The Hart Foundation — Bret (Hit-Man) Hart and brother-in-law Jim (The Anvil) Neidhart — captured the tag-team title, beating Demolition (thanks to help from the Legion of Doom) in the best match of the show, while The Texas Tornado (Kerry Von Erich) won the Intercontinental title from Mr. Perfect (Curt Hennig). The main event, where Hulk Hogan defeated Earthquake via count out, while predictable, was as good as expected.

The bad: The quality of the matches themselves. The tag-team title change and the opening match (The Rockers vs. Power and Glory) were three-star matches. Both the featured matches, Hogan-Earthquake and Ultimate Warrior beating Rick Rude to keep the WWF title in a cage match, were better than average. But of the other six scheduled matches, one never took place (Sapphire vs. Queen Sherri, but we should be thankful for that) and the other five ranged from bad to unbearable.

The ugly: Jim Duggan and Nikolai Volkoff singing "God Bless America" before their tag team match against The Orient Express.

Overall, the show was the success story of the weakest summer for the wrestling business in anyone's memory. The Spectrum, which sold out 19,304 seats five weeks in advance, set a Pennsylvania record with a \$338,452 gate, which is also the largest live gate in the United States this year. But that's just the icing. The show did an estimated 3.9% buy rate on pay-per-view, which is slightly better than the far more publicized Wrestlemania show in April. Translated, it means overall revenue from the show should be approximately \$12.8 million, which puts it in fifth place on the alltime list.

ETC: Sgt. Slaughter's new manager, General Adnon, is really Adnon Kaisy, who represented Turkey in the 1956 Olympics before moving to the United States and wrestling at Oklahoma State. His 32-year pro career included a stint in the 1970s as Billy White Wolf, who held the WWF's tag team title with Chief Jay Strongbow. ... Making his debut at the postmatch tapings was Sama Simba, a Zulu Warrior who used to wrestle as Tony Atlas. ... Legendary baseball announcer Jack Brickhouse joins the National Wrestling Alliance's announcing crew starting Sept. 15 when the NWA debuts on Superstation WGN out of Chicago. Brickhouse was a pro wrestling announcer in the 1950s. ... Paul (Mr. Wonderful) Orndorff and Mean Mark have given their notice to the NWA so they will leave the promotion within two weeks. ... This week's injury report: Barry Windham (NWA) blew out his knee and broke his foot Wednesday night in Roma, Ga. Shawn Michaels of the Rockers (WWF) needs major surgery on his bad knee. Tommy Rich (NWA) should return tonight at the Clash of the Champions on TBS.

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